origin, holding passport No. JV533373 issued on 3rd March 2006 valid up to 3rd March 2011 was issued one year Business Visa No. AF232384 on 31st October 2008.

Samraz Rana Akhtar (wife of Tahawwur Rana Hussian), a Canadian national of Pak origin, holding Passport No. WB694622 issued on 9th August 2007 valid up to 8th August 2012 was issued five year Tourist Visa No.AF232383 on 31st October 2008.

Heads of Indian Mission and Posts in the USA have the discretion to grant visas to US and Canadian citizens of Pakistani origin, according to the extant guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Both visas have since been cancelled. The entire process of issuance of visas to Mr. and Mrs. Rana Hussain is being enquired into. The policy for issue of visas to all foreigners of Pakistani origin is under review.

Proposal of Pakistan to resume talks

2348. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan once again proposed resumption of talks on nuclear confidence building measures but India has refused the offer citing lack of seriousness shown by Islamabad in taking action against perpetrators of 26/11 Mumbai attacks;

(b) whether this took place at the regional meeting of the International Commission for Nuclear Non proliferation and Disarmament in New Delhi in October, 2009;

(c) whether Indian representatives at the meeting placed the facts emerging out of the recent letters of A.Q. Khan; and

(d) if so, the other main points discussed in the meeting and the stand our country has taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) At the regional meeting of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), a Track II forum, held in New Delhi in October 2009 some Pakistani participants called for talks with India on nuclear confidence building measures. There has been no official proposal from Pakistan in this regard.

(c) and (d) At the meeting, the Indian participants had pointed out the facts emerging out of the letters of A.Q. Khan. The meeting discussed several topics, including the mandate and objectives of ICNND, current disarmament and non-proliferation issues (such as FMCT, CTBT, NPT, peaceful uses of nuclear energy etc.) and nuclear power projection and priorities. The Indian participants put forth their views on these issues, including India's commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Release of fisherman in the custody of PMSA

2349. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made towards the release of fishermen and fishing boats from the custody of Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA), State-wise including Gujarat; and

(b) the outcome of the Judicial Committee set up to ensure the expeditious release of fishermen and fishing boats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) According to available information, 593 Indian fishermen and 426 Indian boats are in Pakistani custody. 277 Indian fishermen were given consular access on 11-12 June 2009, bringing the number of fishermen granted consular access to 553. Pakistan had last released 99 Indian fishermen on 26 November 2008. Efforts are being made to secure release of the remaining Indian fishermen and their boats.

(b) The decision to form an India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners was taken during EAM's visit to Pakistan in January 2007, and the first meeting of the Committee was held on 26 February 2008. The Committee made recommendations to the two Governments, which *inter alia*, included immediate release of and consular access to fishermen, and exchange of a consolidated list of nationals in each other's jails. The Committee visited jails in Pakistan in June 2008 and jails in India in August 2008. It also held its meetings during these visits. In its last meeting held in India in August 2008, the Committee again recommended, *inter alia*, immediate release and repatriation of all prisoners to their respective countries who had completed their sentences and whose nationality has been confirmed. Pakistan released 34 Indian fishermen in August 2008, and another 99 fishermen in November 2008. India had released 14 Pakistani fishermen in its jails in May 2008 in pursuance of the Committee's recommendations.

Hambantota Port of Sri Lanka

2350. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka is being developed with Chinese collaboration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the choice of developing this port was first given to India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for refusing to develop the Port which is of significant strategic importance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) It is reported that Phase I of the project of Hambantota Port was launched in April 2008 with Chinese assistance and with the involvement of Chinese Contractors. The approximate cost of Phase I is reportedly US$360 million.